

LANDMARKS

A PUBLICATION OF THE D.C. OFFICE OF PLANNING/HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

FALL/WINTER 2009



Government of the District of Columbia



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2009 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS HELD AT DC COURTHOUSE



On November 18, city officials, preservationists, architects, and residents gathered for the 7th annual awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation. The newly restored District Court of Appeals provided the venue for over 400 guests. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

Excellence in Design – Rehabilitation and New Construction

1155 F Street, NW – Incorporated four historic buildings into the new office construction. Shalom Baranes Associates, Douglas Development Corporation, HKS, Inc., EHT

Tracerics, Inc., Tadjer Cohen Edelson & Associates, James G. Davis Construction Company, and Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects LLP.

Excellence in Design – Restoration and Rehabilitation

Congressional Cemetery – Restoration and repair of cenotaphs, the Macomb tombstone, and the Arsenal memorial. National Cemetery Administration, NPS Historic Preservation Training Center, Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, and Smithsonian Institution Department of Anthropology.

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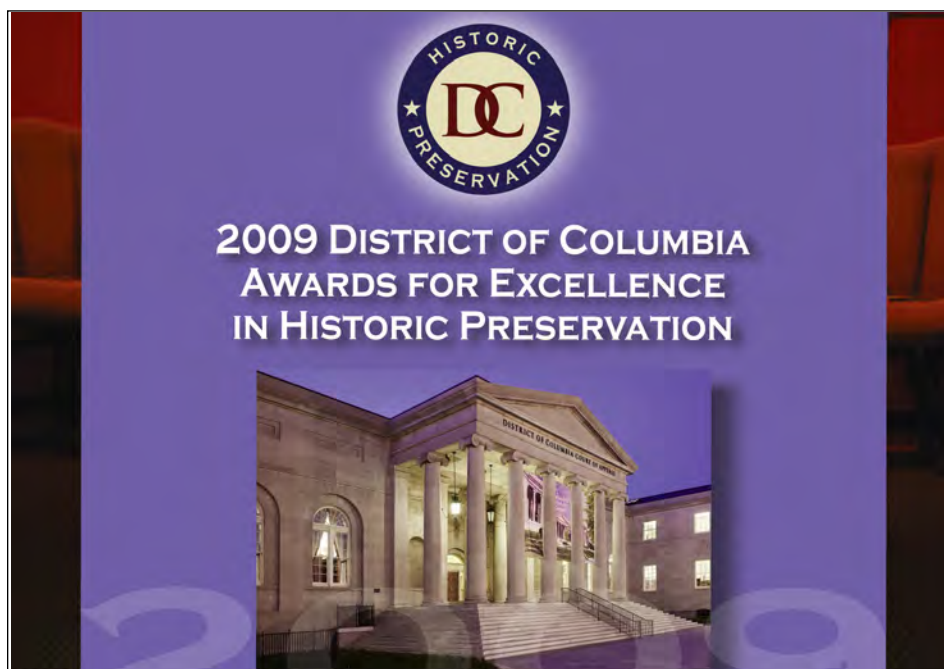


Photo Credit: Beckha Drake

This publication was funded through a U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant.



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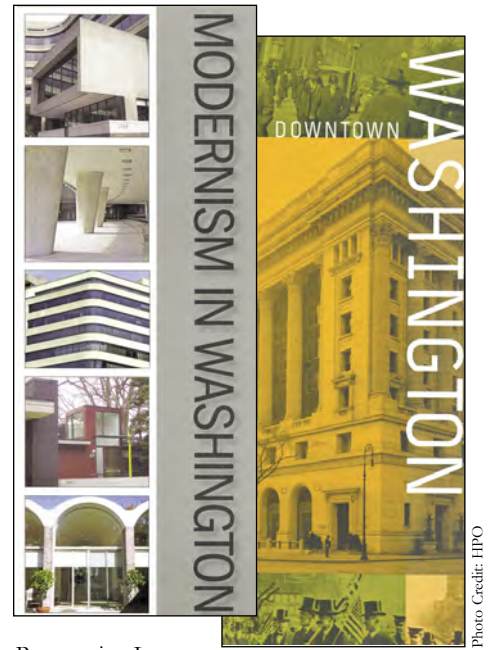
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HPO RELEASES TWO NEW BROCHURES

The end of the fiscal year saw the release of the two latest publications in HPO's series of historic district and thematic brochures. The brochures are available on the HPO website or single print copies may be requested by calling (202) 442-7600 or by emailing historic.preservation@dc.gov.

Modernism in Washington, adapted from the study *DC Modern: A Context for Modernism in the District of Columbia* by Robinson & Associates, provides an overview of the Modern movement in DC. The brochure explains the transition from Washington's prevalent classicist styles to Modernism, delving into materials and technology, urban renewal, and contextualism and providing examples of residential, institutional, government, and ecclesiastic architecture.

A revised edition of *Downtown Washington* was also released, updating the Downtown Historic District brochure. New photos and information on historical and social growth in the area are highlighted, particularly along the Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street corridors. This brochure was co-produced by the DC



Preservation League.

Both brochures were funded with the assistance from a matching grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, through the DC Historic Preservation Office. ❖

2010 COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

The DC Historic Preservation Office is pleased to announce the recipients of Community Grants for the upcoming fiscal year. The Grants are funded through the federal Historic Preservation Fund grant to support activities consistent with the 2010 DC Historic Preservation Plan.

The competitive grants, totaling \$39,600 this year, are available to nonprofit organizations, individuals, or groups working in partnership with nonprofits, institutions of higher learning, and District of Columbia government agencies.



A brochure featuring St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic District will be produced through the Community Grant program.

The following grants were awarded by the grants committee:

Project: Historic Preservation Education and Outreach Symposia

Applicant: Humanities Council of Washington, DC

Grant Award: \$14,000

Project: Meridian Hill Historic Brochure

Applicant: Kim Williams

Grant Award: \$2,700

Project: Moving Towards Housing the Archaeological Collections of our Nation's Capital
Applicant: Tera Tetrault of the Center for Archaeology & Heritage Education

Grant Award: \$12,900

Project: St. Elizabeths Hospital Historic District Brochure

Applicant: DC Preservation League

Grant Award: \$10,000 ❖

NEW HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS

On November 19, the Historic Preservation Review Board voted to designate three properties as DC historic landmarks. These include **Bernard T. Janney**

Elementary School at 4130 Albemarle Street, NW and **Jesse Reno School** at 4820 Howard

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Street, NW, both nominated by the Tenleytown Historical Society and **Fort View Apartments** on 13th Place, NW, nominated by Fort Stevens Thirteenth Place Limited Partnership.

All approved nominations will be forwarded to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. ❖

THE MILITARY ROAD SCHOOL RECAPTURES ITS NAME

In 2006, the Latin American Montessori Bilingual (LAMB) Charter School moved into the historic Military Road School. Despite the laudable renovation efforts and a sensitively designed addition, the building lacked its historic sign and an important link to its history.

The Military Road School was constructed in 1912 on the site of one of the city's first public schools for Freedmen and, until it closed with desegregation in 1954, was the only school available to African American stu-



Photo Credit: African American Heritage Trail

The Military Road School, constructed in 1912.



Photo Credit: HPO

The Military Road School, 2009.

dents in this part of the city. The simply painted school sign, located on the wood frieze on the front porch was painted over, removing some the building's historical associations.

Using historic photographs and the design skills of the Office of Planning's Michael Johnson, the Military Road School Preservation Trust and HPO created a full-size stencil of the

historic sign. The LAMB School used the stencil to repaint the sign and restore the school's historic name to the building. The current name, LAMB School, is readily apparent on the addition, providing a clear distinction between the building's past and present identities. ❖

2009 EDITION OF DC INVENTORY NOW AVAILABLE

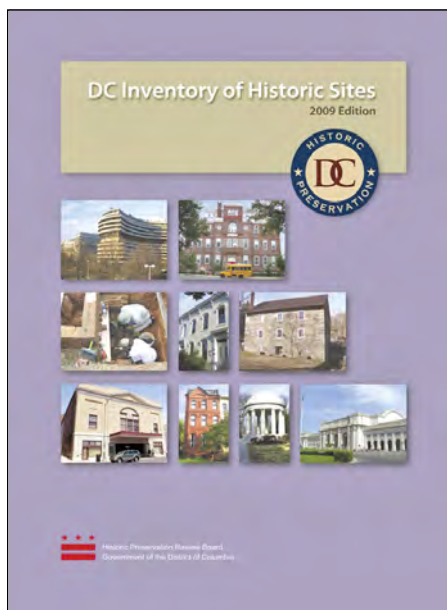


Photo Credit: HPO

For the first time, the Historic Preservation Office has produced an alphabetical version of the Inventory of Historic Sites, the District's list of officially designated historic properties. Properties in the Inventory are deemed worthy of recognition and protection for their contribution to the cultural heritage of the District of Columbia and are protected under both local and federal historic preservation laws. The DC Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) designates properties for inclusion in the Inventory, and the HPO maintains the Inventory and supporting documentation.

The DC Inventory was created in 1964 with 289 listings. The 2009 version of the Inventory includes more than 700 designations encompassing nearly 25,000 individual properties. The Inventory features 650 historic landmark designations for buildings, parks, monuments, artifacts, and archaeological sites and 50 historic districts, including 28 neighborhood historic districts.

The 2009 Inventory is available on the HPO website at www.planning.dc.gov/hp. Please select "DC Historic Sites" to access the document. A limited number of printed copies are available free at the DC Office of Planning in the Reeves Center at 2000 14th Street, NW, Suite 401, weekdays from 8:30 to 5:00. ❖

HISTORIC HOMEOWNER GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Since the initiation of the Historic Homeowner Grant program three years ago, 56 restoration projects have been completed. Twelve new grants totaling \$350,000 were recently awarded for the 2010 fiscal year, and work is now in progress throughout the city on these projects. Funding for FY 2011 remains uncertain.



Photo Credit: HPO

Before photo of 1312 U Street, SE.



Photo Credit: HPO

After photo of 1312 U Street, SE.

To see the DC Office of Cable Television's feature video on the grant project, see http://www.octt.dc.gov/services/on_demand_video/channel16/historical_preservation_Grants.aspx ❖

OFFICE OF PLANNING PARTICIPATES IN 2010 CENSUS OUTREACH

Mayor Adrian Fenty has recently announced the DC Counts campaign and engaged the Office of Planning and other District agencies to mobilize citizen participation in the 2010 United States Census.

Census population data are used to distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year. It is critical that all DC residents complete the census questionnaire in order for the District to

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receive its fair share of funds for schools, hospitals, roads, social services programs, public safety, housing and community development.

District residents will receive census questionnaires via direct mail from the U.S. Census Bureau in March 2010. Representatives from DC Counts will provide assistance with completing the questionnaire at District schools, places of worship, recreation centers, and other locations.

The 2010 Census is short and confidential. It consists of ten questions that take only ten minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau is prohibited from sharing an individual's answers with anyone, including federal, state and local agencies.

Please see the DC Counts website at www.census.dc.gov for more information. ❖



SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

Vernacular Architecture Forum

Washington DC

May 19-22, 2010

<http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/conferences/2010.html>

DC Community Heritage Project Symposium

June 2010

Date and Location TBD

Preserving the Historic Road

Washington DC

September 9-12, 2010

<http://www.historicroads.org/>

Citywide Historic Preservation Conference

Washington, DC

September 2009

Date and Location TBD ❖

Excellence in Design – Restoration and Rehabilitation

Ford's Theater – Rehabilitation including a new lobby and entrance, accessibility to multiple levels, systems upgrades, new seats, and access to three additional structures. National Park Service, ASD, Integral, Forrester Construction Company.

Excellence in Design – Restoration and Rehabilitation

Chinese Community Church, 500 I Street, NW – Removal of formstone and restoration of exterior. Gould Property Company, Rippeteau Architects, Worcester Eisenbrandt, Robert Silman Associates, EHT Traceries, Inc., and the congregation of the Chinese Community Church.

Excellence in Design – Restoration and Rehabilitation

Takoma Park Library – Restoration of the interior and exterior, including the original skylight. District of Columbia Public Libraries, Forrester Construction, and Martinez + Johnson Architecture, PC.

Excellence in Archaeology

The Boy in the Iron Coffin – Forensic anthropology work to uncover the identity of an iron coffin burial found at a Columbia Heights construction site. Department of Anthropology/National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.



Lifetime Achievement winner Coke Florance with OP Director Harriet Tregoning



Photo Credit: Beckha Drake

Excellence in Public Education Award

Neighborhood Heritage Trails – Walking routes marked with illustrated signs, printed guides, and MP3 audio tours. Cultural Tourism DC and the DC Department of Transportation.

Excellence in Community Involvement Award

Shaw Main Streets, Inc. – Projects included the “Architectural Treasures of Shaw” and a “Shaw Heritage Coloring Book” distributed to 4000 students in the neighborhood to introduce them to important neighborhood landmarks and historic figures.

State Historic Preservation Officer's Award

District Court of Appeals – Restoration and rehabilitation of this 1826 landmark building. The District of Columbia Courts, Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners LLP, Charron Consulting, and Hensel Phelps Construction Company.

Excellence in Stewardship

Dumblane – Maintaining and caring for this 1911 home by Gustav Stickley. Elizabeth and the late R. Kendall Nottingham.

Excellence in Stewardship

Northumberland Apartments – The oldest continually self-managed apartment building in Washington. Northumberland Cooperative Board.

HPRB Chairman's Award

Andrea C. Ferster, Esq. – Legal counsel and advocate for city-wide preservation organizations, neighborhood groups, and historic district organizations.

Individual Lifetime Achievement Award

Colden “Coke” Florance – Contributor to historic preservation through adaptive reuse and restoration projects. ❖



Photo Credit: Beckha Drake